THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

VOL. II---NO. ~~179~~. 180 BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

MARRIED,

On the 5th March, by Rev. D. Lyman, JAMES T. BARLOW to Miss SALLIE C. CLAUTICE, both of this city.

DIED,

In Harford county, near Fallston, on Thursday, 17th instant, in the 19th year of her age, EDWINA JANE, youngest daughter of Mary M. and the late Captain Edwin Robinson.

Her relatives and friends are invited to attend her funeral, on this (Saturday) morning, at ten o'clock, from the residence of her grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Cochran, No. 39 East Baltimore street.

On the morning of the 16th instant, Mrs. HARRIET M. WILMER, wife of Charles Wilmer, and daughter of the late Lloyd N. Rogers, Esq.

Her relatives and friends and the relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, on this (Saturday) afternoon, at three o'clock, from her late residence, 211 Madison avenue.

On the 17th instant, Mrs. ELIZABETH McMANUS, consort of the late Chas. McManus, in the 71st year of her age.

On Thursday, 17th instant, JAMES HOBBINS, in the 32d year of his age.

On the 15th instant, Mrs. SARAH H. CARR, in the 84th year of her age, daughter of the late Samuel Carnack.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States a report was made by the committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the surrender of the navy yards at Pensacola and Norfolk, and of the armory at Harper's Ferry. The bill to establish a line of mail steamers from San Francisco to Shanghai, China, came up as the order for the morning hour; no vote was however taken upon it. The debate upon the Confiscation bill was then resumed.

In the House of Representatives the Pacific Railroad bill was again taken up, and after some debate the further consideration of it was postponed until Monday next.

The news from Fortress Monroe is rather more interesting than usual. Nothing has been heard or seen of the Merrimac since she returned to Norfolk. Brief extracts from the Richmond *Dispatch* are given, in which that journal asserts that "no anxiety need be felt by the Southern people as to the result of the coming battle on the peninsula." The Confederates are said to be building heavy fortifications on the Gloucester side of York River, about two miles above Yorktown. In consequence of the long range of their guns, the Federal gunboats are unable to approach near enough to shell the works. One exception to this is, however, noted. The gunboat Salago, mounting a 100-pound rifled gun, has succeeded in throwing shell into the works, and, it is supposed, with fatal effect. But by far the most important intelligence received recently from the peninsula is the evacuation of Newport News. There is no special reason given for the abandonment of the works at that point. We are simply told that Newport News "has now ceased to be a position of importance."

From before Yorktown General McClellan reports to the Secretary of War that the Confederates attacked General Smith's Division on Thursday night, but were "handsomely repulsed." The firing is said to have been quite heavy for a time. Details were promised "as soon as my aids return;" but a second despatch, sent off subsequently makes no mention of them. McClellan, however, states that the troops of Smith's Division succeeded in entrenching themselves during the night, and that there was considerable cannonading in the direction of York river.

A later despatch from General McClellan states that the loss in Smith's division during the engagement on Wednesday night was thirty-two killed and ninety wounded, ten of the latter probably mortally. The conduct of the Vermont troops on the occasion is highly lauded. They are said to have driven a superior force of the enemy from their fortified position, but on the arrival of reinforcements were subsequently compelled to relinquish the ground they had won.

There is, no longer, any doubt remaining as to the fall of Fort Pulaski. The *American* stumbled, unconsciously, upon the truth, when it announced the fact a day or two ago. The correctness of its statement—which did not, at the time, find many believers,—has received, since then, that confirmation which it so much needed. The arrival at New York, of the steamer General McClellan from Port Royal, places the matter beyond dispute. The garrison surrendered, after a brief but severe bombardment, greatly to the surprise apparently of the people of Savannah, who are represented, by a correspondent of the Richmond *Dispatch*, to be alarmed for the safety of the city.

"Gen. Roseccans has been assigned to Blenker's Division, the latter officer being indisposed from a slight wound." So telegraphs from Washington the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. Now there is nothing more natural than that an officer on active military duty in the field should be wounded; but the marvel is, that we have not heard of any skirmish or engagement in which Gen. Blenker has participated lately, and the result of which has led to his present indisposition. Concerning the rumored resignation of Secretary Stanton, the same correspondent is "reliably informed" that the report is untrue. The correspondent of the New York *Post* also has the assurance of a member of the Cabinet that the statement, in a New York paper, that McClellan's plans will be interfered with by any one in the Government is utterly false.

We publish elsewhere Russell's letter of the 11th of March, to the London *Times*. Whatever may be the opinion entertained concerning the value of Mr. Russell's speculations on American Affairs, his felicity of diction, and his admirable descriptive powers are not to be gainsayed. The letter under notice touches upon many points of interest, commencing as it does with the retirement of the Confederates from Manassas, and tracing out what he considers would, in all likelihood, be General McClellan's new plan of operations. To what extent Mr. Russell is correct in explaining the strategy of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac cannot, of course, be known at this time; but he assures the English public he has reason to believe, from what he has heard, that "some such plan will be followed." He declares, however, that to him "it seems open to most serious objections of various kinds," but that it has in its favor "the great plea of necessity." Yet, in an earlier part of his letter he recalls the fact that in the latter end of July, or early in August, he "ventured to express an opinion that Fortress Monroe was the true base of operations against Richmond."

Amusements.

THE PRESTIDIGITATEUR.—This formidable word started the New Yorkers a few months ago, but when the man to whom the name belonged appeared there was more reason for astonishment than ever. The name could be mastered, but the crowds that flocked to the Academy of Music could make nothing out of M. Herrmann. Here was a man, apparently in citizens dress, with little or none of the ordinary paraphernalia of conjurors, standing in the midst of the audience, performing wonders with a nonchalance and ease that intimated a connection with the "Old Nick." Magicians had been seen before, and travelling Professors of Slight-of-hand, but here was a man whose *dialleria* made possible the feats of the Indian jugglers. His elegant manners and perfect self-possession captivated as much as his black art, so that Goethe's Mephistopelies was realized. Certainly nothing can surpass the elegance and the perfection of Herrmann's conjuring. We have not, as yet, seen him, but all who have, tell the same story. So unanimous and unquestionable is the report that it is no more premature to doubt that Herrmann is the greatest living Prestidigitateur than that Dickens is the greatest of living novelists. For sixty nights in New York, by his masterly and marvellous performances, he filled the vast Academy of Music to overflowing, and we doubt not that he will meet with as great success here as he has in every other city he has appeared. The entire management of the affairs is in the hands of Messrs. Ullman and Palmer, of the Academy of Music, New York, the managers of the Italian Opera. Herrmann will be assisted by some of the principal soloists of that institution, in conjunction with a portion of the Grand Orchestra. The first performance in this city will be given on Monday week at the Front Street Theatre. The sale of the secured seats will commence on Thursday next at McCaffrey's music store, where the plan of the theatre may be seen.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—Miss Lucille Western continues to attract hither, by her spirited and dashing impersonations, crowded audiences of admirers. The underline upon the bills of this established favorite announces the forthcoming production of a thrilling five-act drama entitled *East Lynne, or the Elopement*, based upon the touching and popular novel of the former title. The original work abounds in *material* for a first-class stirring play.—Its plot is exceedingly ingenious, its incidents strongly sympathetic, and its *morale* unexceptionable. It is not to be supposed, therefore, that the experienced and popular dramatist from whose pen the forthcoming play is said to emanate, has overlooked these advantages, and we may not unreasonably look for a production of the highest order of "sensational" effect. It is to be presented, we learn, in excellent style, and with a careful distribution of characters, on Monday evening, Miss Lucille Western personating the heroine, Lady Isabel, a role in which, if we mistake not, she will find full scope for the display of the highest dramatic powers. If the play achieves but a portion of the popularity enjoyed here by the story, its term of performance will be an extended one indeed. To-night she will appear as Victorine. This play abounds with interest, and Miss Western is at home in the character of Victorine.

The New York Central Railroad company have sold to the Government, recently, thirteen locomotives, seventy passenger coaches, and a number of freight cars. They are destined for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM THE SOUTHERN COAST.

The Capture of Fort Pulaski—The Garrison Surrenders After a Bombardment of Twenty-Four Hours—The Fort Occupied by Federal Troops and the "Old Flag" Restored to Its Own Again—Terrible Effect of the Union Guns—The Fort Breached—Nearly Four Hundred Prisoners Taken.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The steamer McClellan has arrived from Port Royal, which place she left on the afternoon of the 11th. She brings full particulars of the bombardment and capture of Fort Pulaski, already announced by the Southern papers.

On the morning of the 10th inst., General Gilmor sent a flag of truce to Fort Pulaski, demanding its unconditional surrender, to which Colonel Olmstead, the Rebel Commandant, boastfully replied that he was placed there to defend, not to surrender the fort, whereupon our batteries immediately opened fire on Pulaski.

A few rounds shot away their flag, but it was replaced and the firing kept up till sunset.

General Gilmor then placed a battery at Goat Point, only 1,600 yards from the fort, to breach the walls, and commenced firing at midnight for that purpose with his Parrott and James guns.

On the morning of the 11th two breaches were discovered on the south-east face of the fort, which at noon had assumed huge proportions, and about two o'clock the Rebel rag was hauled down and a white flag displayed, and the fort unconditionally surrendered, Col. Olmstead stating that it was impossible to hold out longer, our rifled cannon shots reaching the magazine, and most of his guns being disabled.

The garrison having surrendered, the Seventh Connecticut regiment took possession the same night, the glorious Stars and Stripes having with great enthusiasm been again restored to its place above the battlements of Fort Pulaski.

The Union loss in the engagement was only one killed and one slightly wounded.

The Rebel loss is three badly wounded and 385 prisoners.

One hundred and five of the prisoners come hither on board of the McClellan in charge of Col. Menar, Aid to Gen. Hunter.

Among the passengers by the McClellan are Lieut. Badeau, Aid to Gen. Hunter, bearer of despatches; Captain Cooley, of the Twenty-eighth Massachusetts; a guard of twelve soldiers of a Rhode Island regiment. Also seven discharged soldiers and mechanics.

The McClellan also brings the good news of the safe arrival of the frigate Vermont at Port Royal. She was being towed into Port Royal as the McClellan sailed.

Jacksonville, Fla., had been evacuated by the Federal troops, who had arrived at Hilton Head on the steamer Cosmopolitan on the 14th.

FROM YORKTOWN.

The Rebels Make an Attack on Gen. Smith's Position, but are Repulsed with Loss—Gen. Smith Silences the Enemy's Guns.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The following despatches were received to-day at the War Department from General McClellan:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, April 18, A. M.

"At about half an hour after midnight the enemy attacked Gen. Smith's position and attempted to carry his guns; but Smith repulsed them handsomely, and took some prisoners. I have no details yet, but will forward as soon as my aids return.

"The firing was very heavy. All is now quiet."

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

"My position occupied yesterday by General Smith's division, was entrenched last night; so that we have been able to prevent the enemy from working to-day, and have kept his guns silenced.

"The same is the result at the batteries at Hyun's Mills.

"The enemy's batteries at Yorktown shelled the gunboats and some of our barges to-day without effect. There is a good deal of firing from the Yorktown land batteries."

Further from Yorktown—Particulars of an Engagement on Wednesday between the Vermont 3d and the Rebels in an Effort to Capture a Battery.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The following despatch was received here this evening:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, April 18, 1862.

An official report has been received at headquarters giving a list of the killed and wounded in the engagement between the 3d Vermont regiment and the enemy on Wednesday, a brief allusion to which was made in my despatch of yesterday. The information as far as received puts the loss thus: Killed, 32; wounded, 90—ten of whom will probably prove fatal.

The conduct of the Vermont troops on this occasion is spoken of in the highest terms, earning for the Green Mountain Boys laurels only to be worn by the brave. They drove, forcibly, a superior number of the enemy from their fortified position, but were forced to relinquish it on the Rebels being reinforced. The loss of the enemy in this engagement must have been heavy, as the well-directed fire of our artillery mowed through acres of them.

Yesterday afternoon, while Lieut. O. B. Wagner, of the Topographical Engineers, in company with a squad of men, was making a survey of the enemy's works, a shell struck the table on which lay the papers, and instantly exploding, the left arm of the Lieutenant was shattered and subsequently was amputated. He is comfortable this morning, and no fears are entertained as to his recovery. Jos. Luther, Jr., of Bristol, belonging to the 2d Rhode Island regiment was probably fatally injured.

Daniel Painter, of Berdan's Sharpshooters, mentioned yesterday as wounded, is dead.

Particulars of the Sortie of Thursday Night.

About one o'clock this morning, the enemy in force attempted to cross the dam in front of our lines, evidently with the view of capturing a battery of our artillery, which had given them considerable trouble during the last few days. On the Rebels making their appearance, they were opened upon by a well directed fire from a body of infantry acting as a reserve to the pickets, forcing them to beat a retreat, leaving their dead and wounded in the dam, which they succeeded in recovering before daylight. Both parties opened with artillery, which has continued at intervals up to the present time. None of our men were killed.

Affairs in Arkansas.

FORSYTH, MO., April 13.—Judge Murphy and Dr. Johnson, of Huntsville, Arkansas, have arrived at General Curtis' headquarters, being obliged to fly since the battle of Pea Ridge by the threats of the Texan Rangers. Judge Murphy was the only member of the Arkansas seceding convention whose vote was recorded as cast against secession. The Union men at Huntsville are much depressed, not being aware of the recent Union victories. Receiving no mails, they are made to believe the baset falsehoods by the Rebels, who are generally believed, none having the hardihood to deny them.

Governor Proctor is bitter and wolfish. He had called a meeting of the Legislature, and in his message recommends an act punishing with a heavy fine any person who even expressed a doubt of the success of the Rebels, and that the second offence should be declared felony. Also that an act be passed imposing a tax of $30 per bale on cotton, thus favoring the production of Grain.

Colonel Wright, of the 68th Missouri, has returned from a successful expedition in Southwest Missouri. Several skirmishes occurred, in which several prominent Rebels were killed. One hundred and twenty-five prisoners were captured, etc.

All the Rebel gangs not captured have been driven to the line of the Indian Territory.

It is reported that Pike is at the head of 1,500 Indians fifteen miles below Buffalo Creek.

The Steamer Nashville at Nassau.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The steamer Nassau brings Nassau papers of the 5th instant, which state that the steamer T. S. Wragg (late the Nashville), from Charleston, had arrived there March 30. She had been purchased by a private company. The Rebel accounts of the Merrimac's success in Hampton Roads had been received there by the Nashville.—The highly inflated accounts concluded with a statement that the Merrimac cannot be boarded, as she throws a large stream of boiling water—that she is probably now at sea running down the Southern coast!

The steamer Southwick, from London, with an assorted cargo, probably to run the Southern blockade, arrived at Nassau on the 1st.

The Nashville cleared on the 5th for St. Johns, New Brunswick, under the name of the "Thomas L. Wragg," with an assorted cargo.

It is stated that the Nashville has not only changed her name but hoisted the English colors. Her assorted cargo consists of arms brought to Nassau from London by the English steamer Southwick purchased by the Rebels in England. She sailed on the 6th. The steamer Economist had arrived at Nassau on the 6th from Charleston with 1,100 bales of cotton.

Iron-Clad Batteries—The Fortifications to be Stopped.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Our Government is determined not to be behind the other Governments in the world in the preparation of iron-clad movable batteries. The extraordinary interest awakened abroad by the conflict between the Merrimac and Monitor has rekindled the excitement here.—It is now considered certain that the fortification bill in Congress will be abandoned, and the money expended in the construction of armored vessels with very heavy guns.

The appropriation for fortifications which is thus to be changed is seven millions of dollars.

Payment of Claims on the Government—The Pacific Railroad.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The condition of the Treasury now enables the Secretary to direct the payment, in cash, of all claims of dates prior to November 1st, 1861, including claims settled by the St. Louis commission, and it is expected that the November claims also will be so paid in full within a few days. All other claims, without regard to date, will be paid on presentation, if desired, as heretofore, 80 per cent. in certificates and 20 per cent. in cash.

The prospect of the passage of the Pacific Railroad bill, during the present session of Congress, is not promising.

Probable Capture of Fort Wright, on the Mississippi River.

CHICAGO, April 18.—The *Evening Journal* says: "We learn from private sources, this morning, that Fort Wright was attacked by Commodore Foote's flotilla on Monday and has been captured. We presume our information is correct, as it comes from one at Cairo who is well informed.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH.

General Banks Still Advancing—Occupation of New Market—Slight Skirmishing—Many Prisoners Taken.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The following was received at the War Department to-night:—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT SHENANDOAH, April 18, 9 P. M.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Our troops occupy New Market to-night. There has been some artillery skirmishing, but no loss on our side has occurred.

We have many prisoners.

(Signed) N. P. BANKS,
Major-General Commanding.

Particulars of the Advance of Gen. Banks' Army.

MOUNT JACKSON, April 17.—This place was occupied this morning at previously announced by Gen. Banks' despatch, the Rebels showing but feble resistance, burning bridges as they retreated. The advance was made by the turnpike and side road, Gen. Shields taking one and Gen. Williams the other.

The cavalry were sent out last night at 1 o'clock to cut of the retreat of the Rebels, but were detained and arrived only a short time before the advance on the Turnpike. The Vermont cavalry dashed through Mount Jackson to prevent the burning of the bridge across the Creek beyond the town, and captured several Rebels in the act of firing the bridge. A Lieutenant of Col. Ashby's cavalry who was riding with the Colonel himself was captured, and Col. Ashby only escaped from wearing the uniform of the Federal cavalry.

The bridge across the Shenandoah was fortunately saved by our pursuing forces, who are in New Market to-night.

Major Copeland and twelve of the escort of General Banks charged through the town on the rear of the enemy.

Colonel Ashby and his men are outside of the town.

Jackson, with his infantry, have fallen back towards Staunton.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

WOODSTOCK, April 18.—Our army probably reached New Market last night. Officers who have returned hither state that when they left, our advance was five miles beyond Mount Jackson. The enemy attempted to make one stand in his retreat, but our guns spurred them on. Lieut. O'Brien, of Ashby's cavalry, was captured at a house on the road. The cavalry company taken yesterday was commanded by Captain Harper, who was absent. His three lieutenants were taken.

Some of our officers believe it possible that an action will take place to-day. General Shields was in command of his forces and gave directions for the right flank movement which caused the enemy's retreat. The locomotives and cars, and every destructible appliance of war not transportable, were burned by the enemy.

The Very Latest.

At half-past 10 o'clock last night Gen. Banks had reached New Market and was in hot pursuit of the enemy.

The enemy made a feint of resistance at Rudd's Hill, a very strong position beyond Mount Jackson, but on a demonstration by our forces they fled.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 17.—To-day has been decidedly the warmest of the season thus far. The weather and the tide have both been favorable for the appearance of the Merrimac, but still she does not make her appearance and nothing unusual has been seen in the direction of Sewall's Point.

At Yorktown there was some firing during last night but without much effect on either side. Some six or eight of our men it is reported were killed during that time, and but one of whom were in Gen. Sedgewick's division.

The steamer Highland Light sails for Hatteras to-night.

There has been no flag of truce to-day.

Regulation in Regard to Passes to Visit the Army before Yorktown.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The following order has been issued from the War Department:

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, April 18, 1862.

In the present condition of military operations at Yorktown, no passes can be given to persons not immediately connected with the troops in a military capacity. The sick and wounded will be amply provided for by the Government, and their friends cannot be permitted to visit them while the above prohibition is in force.

[Signed] L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

Arrival of Treasure from California.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The steamer Ariel has arrived from Aspinwall, bringing $617,000 in treasure from California.

The United States frigate Saranac and the sloop-of-war Warren were at Panama on the 2d inst.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH.—The Branch met at 5 o'clock.—Present WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President *pro tem.*, and all the members.

The PRESIDENT presented a communication from the City Commissioners stating that it will cost $2,000 to repair the wharf at the city yard. Received.

The bills levying the taxes for the year 1862 were called up by Mr. Dukehart.

When the bill authorizing a levy of 36½ cents as direct tax came up, Mr. Sauerwein moved to strike out 36½ and insert 16½ cents on each hundred dollars. Considerable discussion followed and several propositions were offered fixing the levy at sums ranging between 16½ cents and 36½ cents, but the amendment of Mr. Sauerwein, fixing it at 16½ cents, was adopted. All the other ordinances fixing the levy for particular purposes were then passed.

Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met. CHAS. J. BAKER, Esq., President, in the Chair, and all the members present.

The ordinance imposing penalties upon the owners of unoccupied houses, under certain circumstances, being a report from a committee of conference, was received from the First Branch and passed.

Adjourned.

From the Cincinnati Commercial, April 15.

CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS.

One of the inevitable results of the war censorship of the press which exists, and which is so badly managed as to be of not the slightest service to the cause of the country, but a source of disquietude and perplexity to the loyal people, is the general circulation of rumors, which are absurd and yet damaging in their character. Every day brings its brood of false reports, and there is agitation and apprehension on every side. One day the stock market is affected by a story that Burnside has been defeated, and Newbern retaken by the Confederates. The next, the Merrimac is out and has been guilty of awful exploits. The next, there has been a second great battle at Corinth, and our whole army is cut to pieces. Next there is some fearful and wonderful Confederate strategy on the point of being accomplished greatly to our discomfiture. There are the harvest times for stock gamblers. The lying gossips have free course to run loose and be glorified. The only compensation that we can see is the acquisition of understanding by the people, so that they learn that newspapers, instead of being the channels for rediculous gossip, are the conservators of the truth.—The direct mischievous effect of the absurb regulations respecting the publication of military information, would remove the evil of the perturbation caused by the propagation of unfounded and pernicious reports, which are invented by reckless and designing persons, to gull the people, with ulterior purposes. Why, for instance, should we not be allowed to receive special despatches from Pittsburg Landing, which ought to be approved by the military authorities, sending, at least, that "all is quiet on the Tennessee?" We do not discover it. The demonstration of the Secretary of War in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* would seem to indicate that he is opposed to the publication of all military news that is not official. But to show the tardiness of the appearance of official reports, we have only to refer to the fact that the official reports of the battle of Pittsburg Landing were published a week after the date of that event, and that the publication of false and exaggerated reports of the battle is traceable directly to the censorship which is exercised over communications to the press. If it had not been for the necessity of submitting the telegraphic reports of the battle to sundry military censors, the truth would have been before the country three days earlier than it leaked out.

The recent speeches of Parson Brownlow have given offence to the Israelites. The last number of the *Jewish Messenger* says:

We regret to observe that he persists in harping on the religious belief of J. P. Benjamin, whom he designates as "a little miserable Jew." With Mr. Benjamin's political opinions or personal character Mr. Brownlow may be more familiar than ourselves, but we insist that the Parson has not the shadow of a right to introduce into his speeches any such slurs on the Jewish religion as those in which on the last two occasions he has been noticed to indulge. We protest, in the name of our co-religionists, against Mr. Brownlow's unwarrantable use of the Jewish name in a connection designed to ridicule or debase it. It is about time such a prejudice, worthy of the dark ages, had ceased to exist.

DISPARAGEMENT OF THE ENEMY.—The systematic disparagement of the Confederate forces, indulged by some journalists, is made apparent by the following statement from Dr. Reilly, assistant surgeon of the 45th Illinois Lead Mine regiment, who was severely wounded at Pittsburg:

"The accounts from the battle-field unite in according praise to the Rebels for their appearance and the character of their equipments. Their arms were of the finest description; their uniforms, a grey, well-made; and their regiments, many of them, solid, well-looking troops. It is of no use to deceive one's self as to the strength of an enemy. These are plain and simple facts."

CHARGED WITH MURDER.—Capt. W. E. Askins, master of the schooner Alice Mowe, of Baltimore, was brought to New Haven on the 16th instant, charged with having killed an English sailor on board of his vessel, on the 14th of March, in the harbor of Mayaguez. Three English sailors were on board his vessel late at night, and he ordered them off; they refused to go. In attempting to force them, they resisted, and one of them struck him. He then shot one of them dead. He was sent to the United States for trial, and came passenger in the schooner Miranda, which arrived at New Haven Wednesday night. He is in New Haven jail, awaiting his trial.

EUROPE.

EXTRACTS FROM RUSSELL'S LETTER TO THE LONDON TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 17.

The enemy having retired from Manassas and fallen back behind the Rappahannock, it became obvious that the Federals could not pursue them.—They had won a "bloodless victory" but if, after winning it, they could not pursue their beat n enemy, it is plain they would have been still less capable of pursuit had the Confederates met them in the field. The anger and indignation of some of the Northern papers is ludicrous. They are especially vexed because a number of wooden guns were found in the embrasures, which were probably placed there to deceive any reconnoitering party while the enemy were drawing off their forces. They are facetious over the capture of the works by a "Yankee peddler." But, omitting for the time any allusion to this matter, let us speculate as to the course General McClellan will now pursue. He must fight, and that as speedily as he can. All his army is falling back on Alexandria and Washington, for the purpose of making an attack on Richmond. It has been discovered that Manassas does not lead to Richmond.

Those who at all remember what has been written in these columns may recollect that in the latter end of July or early in August, I ventured to express an opinion that Fortress Monroe was the true base of operations against Richmond. If Norfolk falls, the Confederates cannot hold their capital; and if Richmond is taken, Norfolk is rendered untenable. The possession of Suffolk would endanger Norfolk and the whole line of positions, of which it is in some sort the key. Burnside may be feeling his way there, but nothing is now known of his movements. He has received reinforcements, and is probably waiting to concert movements for his advance with the corps about to take the field in a new direction. The strategy now proposed, recognizing the importance of a vital blow at Richmond, will in all likelihood be this:

A feint will be made on Norfolk with that object. General Heintzelman, who is now embarking his corps at Alexandria, will land with a strong force under the guns of Fortress Monroe, and make a very appearance of preparing to dash upon Norfolk on the flank, cutting the line of railroad. This feint, it is expected, will draw from Richmond a large number of the Confederate troops. Heintzleman's feint will be aided by the assembling of a larger force afloat, with gunboats, steamers, tugs, &c., near Fortress Monroe. When all is ready, and the enemy have been drawn to Norfolk in sufficient numbers, Heintzleman, suddenly turning his face from Norfolk, towards the North, will march straight up the peninsula which is formed by the James River and the York River upon Richmond, while McClellan, with a corps of some 35,000 or 40,000 men, advances on a parallel line from the side of the York River.

Some such plan will be followed, I have reason to believe from what I have heard. To me it seems open to most serious objections of various kinds; but it has the great plea of necessity. What if the Merrimac come out of Norfolk, and smashes the whole flotilla in detail or in gross? It is said that steps have been taken to provide against that fearful sortie. What they are no one knows except those who have taken them. But I sincerely hope they may be more effectual than the plan of firing shells filled with cayenne pepper at her, which has been proposed to the President, in the hope of choking and sneezing off the men at the guns! What if the Confederates destroy Burnside's force, and then, having the rail from Norfolk to Richmond, through Suffolk and Petersburg, secure, throw themselves upon the detached expedition which has to march some 74 or 78 miles from Newport News to Richmond, either going by Great Bethel, Williamsburg and Cross Roads, away from their fleet and gunboats, or keeping the shore, and in that case encountering immense difficulties from creeks to be crossed, from marshes, and from such rivers as the Warwick and Chick ahomaney!

However, no one can foresee what may take place. As the man who first told me that he had seen the President's own draught of a despatch refusing to give up Mason and Slidell, and approved it thoroughly, was a day afterwards in rapture with Mr. Seward's surrender of them, representing vast masses of people in the States, so he has among soldiers his type in the General who always disapproves what is done, and praises that which cannot or will not be done. Before this despatch leaves Boston the wires may be charged with the news that General McClellan has ceased to command even the army of the Potomac. The outcry of the Abolitionists is furious; supported by the public disappointment, and by their increasing strength they will make a victim of a Breckinridge pro-Slavery Democrat, as they say the General is, if they can. Every word he says or writes is canvassed and criticized. Even his proclamation, which need not have been addressed to anyone, offends them, because he appears in it to deplore the war. "Sad; not a bit of it—great and glorious war!"

The most absurd intentions are attributed to him. It is whispered that he designs to make himself Dictator. With this end in view he has surrounded himself with foreign Princes and nobles that he may be the nucleus of a Court. He cannot send a small cavalry escort across the river with his wife's carriage without provoking censure and jealousy. Much of this feeling has been caused by the ostentatious and nauseous flattery of those who sought to gain his favor by calling him ridiculous names, and comparing him to "young Napoleon" and "old Fritz," to "Julius Caesar," "Alexander," and even "Hercules." General McClellan appears to me to be really a modest man, concerning whom such slaver must be ashamed in the last degree. What ever his political principles may be, he is not likely to aim at any place higher than that he has lost,—the command of the United States' army, for his ambition is that of a soldier. It is positively asserted in a Washington paper that he will be deposed, and that General Sumner will succeed him. General Banks has been summoned here from Western Virginia. All is commotion in the political and military world.

It is known too well that Mr. Secretary Stanton has formed a unfavorable opinion of General McClellan, and does not hesitate to pronounce him "a failure." A witty minister here said some time ago, "the Americans have two Generals—one is physically dead; the other is not yet born." When reminded of his saying lately, he exclaimed, "The last has been born since, but he turns out to be an abortion." All this is in too last degree unfair.—I have received no courtesy—scarcely, indeed, ordinary civility from General McClellan, owing in all probability to his dread of such censure as was directed against him because he was reported to have taken me with him in a ride through the lines of the army last August; but in justice I must say that he has done that which few others I have met with in the United States could have effected. His defect may be that he regards matters with a microscopic eye through a military field-glass. He does not consider what the political effect of this or of that movement or delay may be, nor does he act on comparisons of forces. But his difficulties have been great. To sum them up in two words, he has no military organization; up to a short time ago he had no army. That which he now commands is for certain purposes of war not an army, even now. General McClellan felt that as well as any one; but he erred, perhaps, in considering that the enemy were better than himself in that respect.

Let us look into this matter a little more closely. The excellent material of the rank and file of the American army is admitted. Recently there has been a marked improvement in their look on parade and in their brigade field-days. Dressed in line, or moving in field evolutions, one was forced to admire their steadiness, their fine appearance, and the change in discipline and air which had evidently been effected in so short a time. But still, from what I saw yesterday, I am led to think that for certain purposes of war this enormous force is not an army, properly so called. It has no cohesion, no body, no organization, no General—there is nobody to do anything with it—to keep it together, to hold it as a machine with which to effect any offensive manoeuvres beyond a straight advance in front, or with which to resist an enemy which has once broken their line. If I am asked how do the Western troops gain their successes, I am bound to say that I do not know whether they are better than the regiments here, or whether the enemy are worse, and commanded by inferior officers.

Last Monday morning the different divisions of the army of the Potomac marched towards the enemy's position, having received information that the enemy had abandoned it the day before. At Centreville they found only abandoned huts, ruined cantonments, some 30 pieces of wooden artillery, and a strong intrenched camp, defended by earthworks and redoubts. At Manassas they came upon an undefended position, weak by nature and not defended by art. The seven miles of road between Centreville and Manassas was a Slough of Despond, and it was evident the enemy had no proper transport for the support of their army at Centreville as soon as they got beyond the reach of their railway at Manassas. They were as little capable of menacing Washington as the Federals were of advancing upon Richmond for the last two months. A corduroy road, "alive with dead horses," as one of our Crimean Staff officers remarked of a similar piece on the plateau of Sebastopol, was the only communication they had between the two positions.

At Manassas were traces of ample stores; at Centreville there was nothing. Much indignation was expressed at the escape of the enemy. "Here is an army of 15 divisions, each at least 8,500 strong, with 46 batteries of field artillery, and any number of cavalry, which has permitted a miserable corps of 30,000 or 40,000 men to challenge, mock, delude and escape it." One of the papers says—"Our men cried when they saw the wooden guns." As there were no means of feeding the army at Centreville or at Manassas—still less further on—it was considered undesirable to pursue the enemy southwards and keep them moving towards Richmond or beyond it. The tracks were, it is said, torn up, the bridges and culverts were destroyed. But Richmond is not more than eighty miles or so, as the crow flies, from Manassas, or four ordinary marches. European armies have often to carry five days' food. The cavalry sent out under General Stonemen came upon a strong rear guard of the enemy near the Warrenton Junction, twenty-five miles south of the Manassas Junction, and they were also met at Rappahannock, where the railroad crosses the north fork of the river of that name. While the cavalry were engaged in making these reconnoissances, in which they encountered great impediments from the nature of the country, and had a slight skirmish with the enemy, the infantry and guns were falling back on their old positions, or moving back to Alexandria.

Under ordinary circumstances it would be considered discreditable to any officer in Europe to have allowed his enemy to retire under such circumstances; but when one remembers the want of experience of those in the Quartermaster-General's department, who should have made themselves acquainted with the enemy's position and movements, the fact will appear less inexcusable. Indeed, the Quartermaster-General's department is not charged with this duty in the United States army; and if it be not discharged by the topographical engineers or the generals, it is left to itself.

How many abortive attempts were made could not be counted on both hands. The utter want of dash on the part of the cavalry—and, indeed, generally—has been noticed on both sides. It proceeds from want of confidence in their leaders on the part of the volunteers. The regular cavalry were treasured up like gold. They were too valuable to be risked in reconnoitering in brushwood; and so it was that no knowledge, as far as we know, was ever gained of the force of the enemy, or of their movements, till they had all taken flight, big and baggage, and left even their upper batteries on the Potomac under the very eyes of the troops on the other side, and of the gunboats on the river, before they were aware of it.

The same want of enterprise on the part of the South forbids the expectation of brilliant, sudden, and dashing movements on their part; otherwise, what could prevent their falling upon Banks as soon as the mass of the Federals had moved off from Washington, overwhelming him, and then coming right down on the capital from the Maryland side, and checkmating the move against Richmond?—Nothing, to be sure, but deficiency of means and skill, perhaps of men. The secret and open dissatisfaction with McClellan, based on his inaction, has found a means of expressing itself. It was rumoured that he had only been forced to march by the orders of the President, who had deposed him from the command of the army as soon as he got him in the field, and who did not acquaint him with his intentions except through the medium of a newspaper. The Secretary of War was reported to be displeased also. Out issues into the field the subcommittee of that terrible investigating Congressional power which digs into the "conduct of the war," They satisfy themselves that the enemy had but few or no heavy guns, and less than 50,000 men in the army at Manassas. The wooden cannon difficulty has been drawn up a report most damatory of the military conduct of General McClellan, and the Republican organ in this city positively announces that he will be deprived of all command.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer (Editorial), April 18th.

THE CAMERON REGIME IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

A startling exposition of the mismanagement of the War Department under ex-Secretary Cameron and Assistant-Secretary Scott is furnished by Executive document, No. 67, recently printed by the House of Representatives. It appears by this, that these two functionaries were busily engaged during last summer and fall making contracts for muskets and other small arms, until the aggregate of their operations summed up one million nine hundred and seventy-six thousand two hundred and forty muskets, rifles and carbines, seventy-two thousand four hundred and forty pistols, and one hundred and forty-two thousand five hundred swords; for which they obligated the Treasury to pay the trifling amount of $6,144,665. The arms were to be delivered, according to the convenience of the contractors, at almost any time during the next two years, the delivery of hundreds of thousands of them being accommodatingly disposed over periods extending from July, 1862, to December, 1863!

While the public will be astounded at the vast magnitude and wild improvidence of these operations, there are other attending circumstances that will hardly less amazed. Whether we consider the exorbitant prices agreed upon, or the apparent privity with the bidders, or the censurable favoritism to defaulting and bogus contractors, or the miserable inferiority of the arms thus procured, or the character of the contractors, (who were in large part neither manufacturers of any kind nor dealers in arms,) or the impolicy of the Department bringing into the field so many bidders to compete with those of the markets of Europe—all show a reckless system of extravagance and jobbing, and a want of foresight and administrative ability, shocking to the instincts of every honest citizen and well-trained business man. Every part of the book is filled with cases illustrating the justness of these remarks, but from them all we select one case, which, as it has been recently before the public, may be taken as a sample:—

On the 4th of September, H. Boker & Co., of New York, offered to furnish "upwards of one hundred thousand stand of rifled percussion muskets," at eighteen dollars each. These rifled guns they represented as being within their "control," from having made "advances thereon." Next day this offer was accepted by Simon Cameron, with the condition that the first instalment of the arms should be ready for inspection in Europe on the 12th of October following, and none to be taken that were not submitted for inspection before the 12th of November. They were to be of two specifications, 58-inch and 69 inch. These are the material points in the agreement. The next we hear of this loose transaction is from Mr. Boker, who writes, after his contract time had expired, that somewhere in Europe, that after an examination of the guns in the market he finds it difficult to furnish "rifled muskets," and coolly asks the Department to allow him to furnish "smooth bores" of exactly the same calibre of 69-inch and 72-inch.

This modification was agreed, but with no reduction of price, the musket to be all of one calibre (69 bores). This proposition, be it remembered, came from contractors who had written the Department that they had control of "upwards of one hundred thousand rif